

## CHAPTER 294.

(Senate Bill 117)

AN ACT concerning the power of courts of record to declare rights, status, and other legal relations, whether or not further relief is or could be claimed, and to make uniform the law with reference thereto, and to add an additional Article to the Code of Public General Laws to follow Article 31 of Bagby's Annotated Code and to to be known as Article 31A, title "Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act."

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,*  
That an additional article be added to the Code of Public General Laws to follow Article 31 of Bagby's Annotated Code and to be known as Article 31A and to read as follows:

SECTION 1. (Scope). Courts of record within their respective jurisdictions shall have power to declare rights, status, and other legal relations whether or not further relief is or could be claimed. No action or proceeding shall be open to objection on the ground that a declaratory judgment or decree is prayed for; nor shall the existence of another adequate remedy preclude a judgment for declaratory relief in cases where it is appropriate. The declaration may be either affirmative or negative in form and effect; and such declarations shall have the force and effect of a final judgment or decree.

SEC. 2. (Power to Construe, etc.). Any person interested under a deed, will, written contract or other writings constituting a contract, or whose rights, status or other legal relations are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have determined any question of construction or validity, arising under the instrument, statute, ordinance, contract, or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations thereunder.

SEC. 3. (Before Breach). A contract may be construed either before or after there has been a breach thereof.

SEC. 4. (Executor, etc.). Any person interested as or through an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or other fiduciary, creditor, devisee, legatee, heir, next